PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) Foodgrains conforming to specifications are procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State agencies in various States at the minimum support prices fixed by the Government. However, the relative share of procurement by the FCI and the State agencies varies from State to State.

Some States have adopted the decentralized procurement system wherein the procured foodgrains are retained for local distribution under the Targeted Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes and the Central Government reimburses the difference between the economic cost of foodgrains so distributed and the Central Issue Prices, as food subsidy. The quantum of food subsidy released to such States during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

State	Subsidy released		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Madhya Pradesh	128.27	66.74	118.75
Uttar Pradesh	1120.70	975.62	1377.96
West Bengal	81.19	27.41	179.97
Chhattisgarh	158.60	89.94	628.87
Uttaranchal	13.97	80.43	92.73
Tamil Nadu	—	45.82	27.21
Orissa	—	—	40.96

BPL families in Punjab

2082. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of families identified as living Below Poverty line in Punjab for providing food-grains under Public Distribution System;

(b) whether there is any proposal to revamp the entire Public Distribution System in Punjab in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System

(TPDS) the estimated number of families living below the poverty line, based on the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission (1993-94) and the projected population of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000, for Punjab is 4.68 lakh (including Antyodaya families). Allocation of foodgrains to Punjab is being made for all the estimated number of 4.68 lakh BPL families.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Status of sugar mills in Bihar

†2083. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of sugar mills in Bihar;

(b) the number of total mills in public sector and cooperative sector and the status of their production;

(c) the scheme of Government for revival of closed sugar mills in Bihar; and

(d) the loss suffered by farmers as well as loss of production of sugar as results of sickness and closure of sugar mills in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) There are no sugar mills in the Co-operative Sector in Bihar. None of the 15 public sector mills in Bihar worked in 2004-05 sugar season. Of the 13 private sector sugar mills, 4 worked in 2004-05 sugar season producing 2.59 lakh MTs of sugar.

(c) It is the responsibility of the entrepreneur to take steps to reopen/ revive the closed sugar mills.

(d) Sugar Mills remain closed or become sick from time to time for a variety of factors, such as, inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, old age, bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.